

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, June 18, 2013 at 5:00 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**PRESENT:** Chair Bernie Erickson, John Walschinski, Jim Haskins, Duane Pierce, Delores Pierce, Ed Koslowski, Jerry Polus, Rosemary Desisles, Joe Witkowski, Bill Kloiber, Carl Soderburg  
**EXCUSED:** Sherry Steenbock

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**\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1428**

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**1. Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 5:00 p.m.

**2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.**

**3. Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by JIM HASKINS, seconded by ROSEMARY DESISLES to approve the agenda. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**4. Approve/Modify Minutes of May 21, 2013.**

Page two of the Minutes, paragraph 4, should refer to Medal of Honor *recipients*, not Medal of Honor *winners*.

**Motion made by DUANE PIERCE, seconded by JOHN WALSCHINSKI to approve minutes as amended. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Brown County Fair – 2013 Veterans Appreciation Day Discussion (August 17).**

Jerry Polus stated arrangements for the Fair are falling into place very nicely. He stated that the VVA Post 224 color guard will do the posting of colors. He has also arranged for a recent graduate of Ashwaubenon High School, Lauren Pavlik, to sing The Star Spangled Banner. Polus has also spoken with Medal of Honor recipient Gary Wetzel and has confirmed his attendance at the Fair. The Table Ceremony is confirmed and Polus also stated that the contract for the band has been signed and payment will be made to lock them in to perform from 7:00 until 8:30. It was also indicated that the VVA will provide a bugler to perform Taps following the Table Ceremony.

Polus continued that he had received a box in the mail earlier in the day from the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Partner Program containing an appreciation certificate to the Brown County Veterans Recognition Committee along with a proclamation from the President of the United States and a commemorative flag which he showed to the Subcommittee. Polus stated he will want these items displayed at the Fair and asked for someone to take responsibility for this. Rosemary Desisles and Delores Pierce stated that they will handle this. Erickson stated that he will speak with Board Chair Moynihan to see if the flag could be displayed at the August County Board meeting.

Polus also had a sample of the poster and stated that it will be modified to add a picture of the Medal of Honor recipient. Everyone agreed that the poster was very nice and Polus also has a draft letter ready to go out to all Veterans organizations which should

be mailed out next week so they have time to get tickets distributed at July and August meetings. Polus provided the Subcommittee with a copy of the draft agenda, a copy of which is attached.

Polus asked Koslowski if he had an estimate as to the number of tables that will need to be set up. Koslowski answered that he had a general idea and already has five groups committed at this time. Koslowski suggested the possibility of contacting a radio station to see if they would want to do a live radio remote inside the tent. This was discussed and will be given additional consideration.

Koslowski also questioned when the token of appreciation would be given to the Vietnam Vets and Erickson indicated that that will happen sometime during the speeches that will be given by himself and County Executive Troy Streckenbach.

It was also indicated that the final details will need to be discussed with Steve Corrigan of the Fair Board and he will be invited to attend the next meeting. Haskins indicated he will stop at the Fair Board office to ask him to attend the next meeting. Erickson also indicated that Haskins may wish to contact Judy Knudsen at the UW Extension as she is active with the Fair as well. Erickson also noted that arrangements should be made to have a couple of golf courts available to shuttle veterans back and forth to their vehicles as needed.

#### **6. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus did not have anything to add other than what was discussed in Item 5 above.

#### **7. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Desisles, Haskins, Maino, Ness, Pierce, Steenbock, Walschinski & Witkowski).**

-Bernie Erickson reported that he had received a donation of a half-day fishing trip to be used as a prize at the Fair. He has also secured a football autographed by Mark Murphy of the Packers and will be seeking donations of several other items. In addition, there will be water bottles, coffee mugs and tee shirts from the Vets Office for prizes at the Fair.

-Desisles reported that the Navy League will be at the charcoal pit at the EAA grounds on August 2. She also stated that there will be an event for Vietnam Vets held on August 2 in conjunction with Air Venture in Oshkosh. One hundred Vietnam Vets will be chosen in a random drawing to go on an Old Glory Honor Flight to Washington DC. Applications must be completed by July 1 and there is a link to the application on the WBAY TV website. Desisles completed her report by stating that Rockie Lynne will be giving a concert on June 22 at 7:00 p.m. at Ho-Chunk Gaming in Black River Falls. This performer also performed at LZ Lambeau.

-Haskins shared a poem he had written entitled "Heroes" with the Subcommittee which was followed by a round of applause. He also reported that Neighbor Works will be converting space into an organic garden and will be starting a program to teach vets how to grow and prepare organic food. Haskins also shared a list of different festivals and activities in Milwaukee that will be offering free or reduced admission to veterans over the summer and fall.

Haskins also reported on the Hops for Heroes project in which craft breweries from around the country are teaming up to raise money for military families by selling a beer aged on baseball bats. Homefront IPA beer was released in time for Memorial Day and is brewed with orange peel and aged by soaking with unfinished Louisville Slugger

maple bats. Participating breweries will sell the beer and all proceeds will be donated to local chapters of Operation Homefront which provides emergency financial assistance to military families.

Haskins also read an article from the *Green Bay Press Gazette* entitled "Honor Those Who Have Died But Remember Those With Invisible Wounds". Haskins concluded his report by reporting on homeless and unemployment rates of veterans.

-Duane Pierce reported that Pearly Gates will hold their annual ride on July 13 with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the ceremony beginning at 11:00 a.m. followed by the ride at noon. The ceremony will commemorate the Vietnam Veterans in conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The ceremony will be very moving and well worth attending. Those not going on the ride are still welcome to attend. There will be a live band and live auction and other activities following the ride. This is the eighth year that this event has been held and last year over \$50,000 was raised to help local veterans. There are 84 sponsors of this event, including the Green Bay Packers.

Pierce also stated that he came across a website recently, [www.militaryandveteransdiscounts.com](http://www.militaryandveteransdiscounts.com) that lists businesses with discounts and freebies available to veterans throughout the year.

Pierce also reported that the remains of Merlin Ray Allen had been recovered and brought home and a service will be held for him in Bayfield on June 29. Pierce also noted a number of events in the area at which the Talk of the Town band will be playing.

-Walschinski reported that he will be bringing the 3-D model of the Northeast Wisconsin Veterans Memorial that is being built in Howard to the Fair for display along with updated illustrations. They are currently in the fundraising portion of the project.

-Witkowski felt that recognition should be given at each meeting for the MIA chair. He also stated that he is quite excited for the Veterans Clinic to open and he felt that this would be a great asset to the veterans in the community. Witkowski also commented on veteran's unemployment rates as reported by Haskins and noted that in the old days there were not jobless situations for veterans as the general practice was for veterans to come back to their old jobs.

## **8. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

A discussion was held as to what type of commemorative item will be ordered to be handed out to Vietnam Veterans at the Fair. It was narrowed down to a coin and a pocket knife and Erickson will make some calls to get prices on these items.

## **9. Adjourn.**

**Motion made by DUANE PIERCE, seconded by JIM HASKINS to adjourn at 5:56 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary

**MILITARY/VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY**

**BROWN COUNTY FAIR**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2013**

**AGENDA**

**12 NOON- 6:00 PM -VETERANS MEET AND GREET -TENT AREA**

**6PM- VETERANS PROGRAM**

- **WELCOME-JOHN MAINO-MASTER OF CEREMONIES**
- **POSTING OF COLORS-VVA#224 COLOR GUARD**
- **STAR SPANGLED BANNER-LAUREN PAVLIK-ASHWAUBENON HS GRAD**
- **CHAPLIN PRAYER**
- **TROY STRECKENBACK-CO. EXEC WELCOME MSG.**
- **BERNIE ERICKSON-COMM CHAIR-VNV COMMERATIVE PROGRAM**
- **SPEAKER-GARY WETZEL-MEDAL OF HONOR RECEPIENT**
- **TABLE CEREMONY-FLAG FOLDING CEREMONY/TAPS**
- **DOOR PRIZE DRAWING**
- **RETIREMENT OF COLORS**

**7PM-8:30PM PERFORMANCE BY "TALK OF THE TOWN"**